

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Ecuador
Program Title:	Democracy and Conflict Prevention
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	518-012
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$10,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$100,000 DA
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$100,000 DA; \$8,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: The level of support and confidence in democracy in Ecuador is alarmingly low as shown by the first Democratic Values Survey completed in November 2001 by the University of Pittsburgh. To help reverse this situation and prevent a return to non-democratic government, which will have a negative impact on regional stability, USAID seeks to increase support for the democratic system by strengthening the transparency and accountability of democratic institutions, fostering greater inclusiveness of key historically disadvantaged groups in crucial democratic processes, and increasing consensus on policies critical to democratic consolidation through the justice system, anti-corruption, and democratic local governance. During Ecuador's presidential elections in 2002, USAID also supported free and fair elections as a means of reinforcing the legitimacy of democracy.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Justice reform (\$3,552,000 ESF). Funds will be used to: (a) continue supporting effective implementation of the new Criminal Procedures Code through specialized training, technical assistance, further reforms to the Code, and dissemination of the Code to the public; (b) support public-private partnerships to strengthen justice reform through the Justice and Democracy Fund; (c) support the efforts of the Civil Society Justice Coalition to produce technical material and lobby for key justice reforms and to promote judicial independence and impartiality; (d) develop a judicial evaluation program and implement an Internal Affairs Office in the National Judicial Council (CNJ); and (e) initiate a program promoted by a local non-governmental organization (NGO), aimed at ensuring a simpler, more transparent legal framework to protect rights and facilitate investment. An exchange program implemented in partnership with the Public Affairs Section of the Department of State will permit judges, mayors, and others to visit the United States to share experiences with and learn from counterpart organizations. The prime partner for justice activities is Fundacion Esquel which works with NGOs, public sector organizations and national and international justice organizations. Hacia La Seguridad is the prime partner implementing legal reforms to facilitate investment.

Democratic local governance (\$2,640,000 ESF). USAID will continue municipal strengthening, citizen participation, and decentralization efforts to strengthen the capacity of 15 local governments and their communities to engage democratically in the effective planning and delivery of services prioritized by communities. Funds will also be used to initiate efforts to systematically share lessons from 15 municipalities nationwide. Additionally, USAID will initiate activities to make fiscal decentralization more equitable, transparent, and predictable and begin a follow-on program to expand this area. Associates in Rural Development (ARD) is the prime partner for advancing USAID democratic local governance efforts.

Anti-corruption and transparent/accountable democracy (\$3,808,000 ESF): In January 2003, an assessment of corruption in Ecuador and recommendations for combating was completed. This will lead to the design of a new activity to strengthen and build upon work to date with the Civic Anti-Corruption Commission. In addition, USAID is assessing the potential for supporting the enhancement of new

leadership in political parties and supporting civil society oversight in democratic processes and political reform. Principal contractors and/or grantees are to be determined.

FY 2004 Program:

Justice reform (\$2,586,000 ESF). USAID plans to use funds to: a) provide advanced training and technical assistance for the implementation of the new accusatory system, (b) support the design and initial implementation of a public defense system, (c) expand public-private partnerships to strengthen justice reform, (d) strengthen the efforts of civil society groups to promote justice reforms and judicial independence, and (e) complete purification of statutes and law reform proposals for Congressional approval.

Democratic local governance (\$1,888,000 ESF). USAID assistance will: (a) distill lessons learned from the implementation of the project in the selected 15 municipalities, (b) advance dialogue and provide technical support to improve fiscal decentralization with the new GOE, and (c) expand assistance to other municipalities of the country to promote local democratic governance.

Anti-corruption and transparent/accountable democracy (\$3,526,000 ESF; \$100,000 DA). USAID will continue implementation of an activity currently under design to promote transparency and fight corruption and continue its efforts to strengthen civil society oversight of government. Funds will be used to continue supporting efforts to promote new leadership in political parties and support domestic observation and citizen participation in local and provincial elections.

Performance and Results: USAID support was critical to Ecuador's successful elections, building local governance, and fighting corruption. Ecuador's first-ever democratic values survey, with USAID support, became a useful analytical and planning tool for democracy supporters in the country. In terms of elections, the domestic observation group "Participacion Ciudadana" (PC) supported by USAID and other donors, mobilized over 4,000 young volunteers from across the country to: (a) produce an electoral code of conduct, (b) monitor campaign spending, and (c) conduct and publicize a statistically accurate "quick count" of presidential election results that confirmed official results. PC served as a school for democracy for thousands of citizens. USAID funding to strengthen the Electoral Tribunal and international observation was critical to the transparency, freeness, and fairness of these elections. In terms of justice, USAID supported a thorough evaluation of the application and text of the new Criminal Procedures Code that will allow the country to define and take specific institutional and legal reforms to implement the new system. A civil society justice coalition defined a strategy to promote justice reform and judicial independence and impartiality. In promoting democratic local governance, USAID's partner was successful in carrying out participatory processes in the selection of services, and in designing action plans to improve these services in 15 municipalities and benefiting over one million citizens.

The Mission expects to see significant advances in implementation of the new Code of Criminal Procedures, judicial independence, and decentralization. USAID will continue to work closely with the GOE's interagency commission to build Ecuador's capacity to execute effectively the new criminal procedure code. The Judiciary will be more independent through implementation of a USAID-supported evaluation system for judges and an Internal Affairs office. A more coherent fiscal decentralization strategy will be defined and "lessons learned" will be widely disseminated. It is expected that these efforts will contribute to greater local government legitimacy. Furthermore, Participacion Ciudadana will consolidate gains made during the 2002 election and will hopefully become a key player in civil society oversight of government.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Ecuador

518-012 Democracy and Conflict Prevention	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	6,107	5,840
Expenditures	4,526	957
Unliquidated	1,581	4,883
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	100	7,500
Expenditures	1,061	892
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	6,207	13,340
Expenditures	5,587	1,849
Unliquidated	620	11,491
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	100	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	0	10,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	100	10,000
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	100	8,000
Future Obligations	0	10,000
Est. Total Cost	6,407	41,340